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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

March 26, 2002

Applicants : Bobby L. Dixon, et al.

For : METHOD OF TREATING CERAMIC CORES

Serial No. : 09/805 426 Group: 1725

Filed : March 13, 2001 Examiner: L. Tran

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 for claims of like number:

AI
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By
1. (Amended) A method of treating a ceramic core after molding and before firing for use in casting molten metallic material, comprising placing an unfired ceramic core having a molded core shape and having an organic binder on at least one setter, placing said at least one setter and said unfired ceramic core thereon on a conveyor that conveys said at least one setter and said unfired core through a heating oven, and conveying said at least one setter and said unfired ceramic core through the heating oven to heat said at least one setter and said unfired ceramic core to an elevated superambient temperature effective to soften said binder to reduce distortion of said unfired ceramic core.

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